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DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
Carrie Nevans, Acting Administrative Director

1515 Clay Street, 17th floor, Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 286-7100

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Ambulance fee schedule adopts Medicare's 2009 public use file effective Jan. 1, 2009

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has posted an order adjusting the ambulance services section of the Official Medical Fee Schedule (OMFS) to conform to changes in the Jan. 1, 2009 Medicare payment system.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that the ambulance inflation factor for calendar year 2009 would be 5 percent. CMS has now published its 2009 ambulance fee schedule public use file, which contains rates for 2009. The administrative director already adopted an order applying the ambulance inflation factor, but the order applied to the rates in the calendar year 2008 public use file.

The administrative director has now adopted an order, effective Jan. 1, 2009, which incorporates the CY 2009 ambulance fee schedule public use file. For services rendered on or after Jan. 1, 2009, the rates in the CY 2009 ambulance fee schedule public use file shall be used. This order adjusting the ambulance services section of the OMFS conforms the schedule to the changes in the Medicare payment system as required by Labor Code section 5307.1.

Further information and the order adopting the adjustment can be found at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/OMFS9904.htm>.

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